

Homer Harris Park History/Art Committee Minutes – 7/22/2003

Meeting goal: to identify and prioritize themes for Art and History elements in Homer Harris Park

Attendees:

Adrienne Bailey, Community Outreach Partnership
Robert Stephens, Central Area Cultural Arts Commission
Sandy Hirsch, Community member
Michaune Scott, Black Heritage Society
DeCharlene Williams, Central Area COC
Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks and Recreation
Hilary Mohr, Seattle Parks Foundation
Kari Stiles, Seattle Parks Foundation

Roles

- Central Area Cultural Arts Commission (CACAC) will help to develop art plan for Homer Harris Park, with reference to neighborhood plan. May involve groups including African American Academy, Black Heritage Society. CACAC will organize artist selection.
- Seattle Parks Foundation will assist with outreach, art plan, and applications for art grants.
- Seattle Parks Department/Pro Parks will staff meetings, assist with permitting and review.

Key Themes identified by group

Foundations: Homer Harris was able to do what he did by building on the strengths and lessons learned during his youth: Strong community foundations built his character

Gateways, Bridges and Crossroads: Between cultures and generations

Pioneers: neighborhood includes Grose property and first Seattle Black and Jewish communities

Diversity: tapestry of African American, Jewish, Asian communities woven into Central Area

Ideas for Art and History Elements

- Art can reflect strengths of this neighborhood - the foundations of Homer Harris's youth
- Timeline trail. A walk through the park is a walk could be a walk through the history of the community. Families could contribute by purchasing a brick in the timeline trail from the year their family moved into neighborhood (Timeline could reflect Dr. Harris's life too)
- Temporary art projects to get ongoing involvement from schools, churches, etc.
- Trees or grove of trees as art – reflecting what gave Homer Harris strength
- Art and furnishings should encourage people to interact, face each other

Timeline

August 20 Kick-off community meeting with Parks, Parks Foundation, Landscape architect, community. Will include exhibit/presentations on history of Central Area and Homer Harris.

August 27 Friends and Arts History group to review kick-off meeting ideas, follow up tasks. Tasks include developing draft art plan for Homer Harris Park before Oct 1 community meeting.

October 1 Community meeting to review concepts developed by Landscape architect. Decide on art priorities to include in 2004 construction. First art/history project should be permanent.

Next Steps

Outreach: Flyers, signs, leaflet cars for community meetings. Contact churches, schools, local business

Community history presenters at Aug 20 meeting: Central Area history, Homer Harris story.

Historic Materials for display: Work with Black Heritage Society, History Links, SPL genealogy to put together small display on history of Central Area

If you want to help, learn more, do more, or have ideas to share, contact:

Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks (206)684-7033 cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov

Kari Stiles, Seattle Parks Foundation (206)332-9900 kari@seattleparksfoundation.org

SUMMARY OF FRIENDS OF HOMER HARRIS PARK COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Homer Harris Park Community Meeting #1

Date: May 21, 2003; Time: 7-8:30pm

Location: Garfield Community Center, Key Project Room

Community members: 12 community members attended this meeting

Goal of Meeting: To explore the possibility of forming a Friends of Homer Harris Park group to help in community outreach and park design review.

7:00 – Karen Daubert, Director, Seattle Parks Foundation

- Welcome

7:10 – Cathy Tuttle, Planner, Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Partners in creating the park

7:20 – Royal Alley Barnes, Central East Sector Manager,

- Adding Homer Harris Park as an asset to the Central Area Park system

7:25 – Kris Sorensen, the role of Seattle Parks Foundation Role

- Opportunities for Involvement, i.e. outreach, leadership, students, other

7:30 - Question and Answer/Discussion

8:15 - Next Meeting/Schedule of Meetings

Homer Harris Park Community Meeting #2

Date: June 26, 2003; Time: 7-8:30pm

Location: In Homer Harris Park at picnic tables

Community members: 17 community members attended this meeting

Goal of Meeting: To discuss how to engage community in planning the park.

Main ideas discussed:

- ideas of how to reach out to the broader Central Area community and the community of people who know and respect Dr. Harris
- the surrounding streets and how the Friends group could help to coordinate the park into the urban fabric
- community-driven art plan that would help to define art for the new park. Adrienne Bailey, Sandy Hirsch, Lew Kinen, and Robert Stephens, Jr. offered to coordinate with the Central Area Cultural Arts Commission to help plan for the art in Homer Harris Park. Please contact the Commission if you would also like to be involved at 860-1200.

Contacts:

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- Kari Stiles and Karen Daubert, Seattle Parks Foundation (206) 332-9900
- Adrienne Bailey, Seattle Central Community College Community Outreach Partnership Center (206) 860-1200 abailey@sscd.ctc.edu

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